



SOUTHEAST NEWS

December 2007 - January 2008

Southeast Elementary School, 134 Warrenville Rd., Mansfield Center, CT 06250 423-1611

Dear Southeast Families,

It's hard to believe this year is almost over. As we reflect back, we can see that our efforts have been extremely productive. I commend the children, families and staff for doing an outstanding job in providing our students with so much in the way of academic support, encouragement and love. Thank you for being so enthusiastic and supportive.

I hope that you have a wonderful holiday season filled with joy, a fun-filled vacation and a new year which brings you much happiness.

Fondly,
Norma Fisher-Doiron



Southeast Salutes Our Veterans

As a way of recognizing our local heroes and studying the importance of Veteran's Day, students from Ms. Hathway's and Mrs. Cackowski's class organized this year's fourth annual Veteran's Day luminary display. All families were invited to walk through our display of over 160 luminaries on the evening of November 8th. This event is always a wonderful visual representation of how many people in our Southeast community are recognized on this special holiday. Our Southeast Brownie Troop 65030 provided guests with hot chocolate and baked treats.



Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF

This year's contribution to UNICEF, from the children of Mansfield, amounted to \$2,868.96 .




Calendar of Events

December

| | | |
|-----------------------|--|---|
| Dec. 4..... | Chanukah begins at sundown |  |
| Dec. 6..... | Building Project for Elementary Schools Meeting at MMS | |
| Dec. 12..... | Last day of Chanukah | |
| Dec. 13..... | 7:30 Board of Ed. Meeting | |
| Dec. 22 - Jan. 1..... | Winter Vacation NO SCHOOL | |
| Dec. 25..... | Christmas Day NO SCHOOL |  |
| Dec. 26 - Jan. 1..... | Kwanza NO SCHOOL | |

January

| | | |
|--------------|---|--|
| Jan. 1..... | New Year's Day NO SCHOOL |  |
| Jan. 7..... | Rob Surrette- Amazing Hero Art 6:00 Parents' Hour - "Healthy Treats for School Celebrations" 7:00 PTO Meeting | |
| Jan. 17..... | 4th Gr. Ice Skating Field Trip | |
| Jan. 21..... | Martin Luther King, Jr. Day NO SCHOOL | |

The Southeast Elementary Community enjoyed a delicious Thanksgiving Feast prepared by Mrs. Gagne and Mrs. Trudeau. The wonderful gathering of staff, students, parents and community members enjoyed fantastic entertainment provided by our talented students as well. We are all grateful for the energetic volunteers that arrived early to set-up, serve and clean-up for this special celebration day. Southeast would like to express heartfelt thanks to our lunch program staff, volunteers and student performers for all of their hard work and thoughtful effort for our annual Thanksgiving Feast.



Attendance Line/Nurse: 423-2793

Please visit our website www.mansfieldct.org/schools/southeast

Congratulations to Elizabeth A. Latino

**Mansfield 2008 Teacher of the Year
&
State Semifinalist
for
2008 Connecticut Teacher of the Year**



Elizabeth A. Latino, a fourth grade teacher at Southeast, was honored at the 2008 Connecticut Teacher of the Year awards ceremony. The ceremony was at Central Connecticut State University on Thursday, November 15th. This event acknowledged the achievements and contributions of teachers in more than 100 participating school districts.

All of us at Southeast are very proud of Beth and her accomplishments. We wish her continued success!

PARENTS' HOUR

HEALTHY TREATS FOR SCHOOL CELEBRATIONS

**Monday, January 7th
6:00 - 7:00 PM
Room 19**

Topics covered will include:

"Treats" can also be classified as
-nutritious snacks
-physical activities
-crafts

*We will also be sampling yummy goodies
and developing a booklet
full of fun ideas and recipes.*



Childcare will be available in Room 18.

Refreshments will be served
Please call 423-1611 to arrange for childcare.

PTO MEETING TO FOLLOW AT 7:00 PM

From the Green Thumbs Club



In previous newsletters, the Green Thumbs Club has provided tips for those of you who are interested in reducing the amount of junk mail you receive. Here are two more!

- An easier way to stop receiving unwanted catalogs is to log on to <http://catalogchoice.org>. This is a quick, user-friendly, and convenient site for removing your name from catalog mailing lists.
- If you don't want to receive Valpak coupons, you can remove your name and address from their mailing list by going to coxtarget.com and click on "Contact us." Then follow the link and look to the bottom of the page for another link to "Mailing Address Removal Request Form." You can always visit valuepak.com and print out only the coupons you need.

Voluntary Services For Families

Families can receive mental health, drug or alcohol services through DCF for their children and adolescents. these services can include case management, links to services, and/or treatment services. They are only for young people who are NOT committed to the Department of Children and Families. If you are caring for a child or teen who fits these guidelines and might benefit from these services you can find out more by going to:

www.ct.gov/dcf/cwp/view.asp?a=8&Q=314906&PM=1

Southeast Superheroes at Work

On November 18, 2007 a group of students and parents from 1st to 4th grade volunteered their time to walk with the Southeast Team in the WAIM Walk for Warmth. Leading up to the event, students met as a group during recess to contact local businesses for donations, make posters, and even design superhero capes which were worn the day of the walk. We raised \$475 in donations and would like to thank all of the families who participated and donated. The money will be used to provide energy service to families in Willimantic who can't afford to heat their homes this winter. We are very proud of our students and the Southeast community for coming together to support a worthwhile cause.



-Lara Wallmark & Kelly McCormick
Enrichment Interns

WINTER WEATHER, DELAYED OPENINGS, EMERGENCY EARLY CLOSINGS

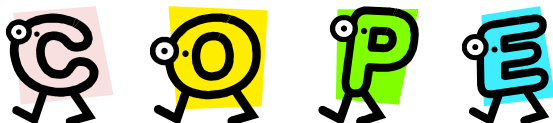
As winter approaches, the possibility exists for storms that would require the Superintendent to order a delayed opening or emergency early closing.



It is the parent's responsibility to be aware of delayed openings and early closings or cancellations by listening to the radio or TV and to make arrangements for childcare.

For more information about delays and emergency early closings, please log on to our website:

www.mansfieldct.org/schools/southeast



For children learning to ~COPE~ with Loss and Divorce

Children experience losses in many ways, whether it be moving to a new home, the arrival of a new baby, the death of a family member or the separation/divorce of parents. As a result of these situations, children may often have varied and intense feelings, such as sadness, anger, guilt, confusion and a sense of loss at seeing the family unit change. These changes and stress may often interfere with normal classroom behavior and with their ability to learn. A supportive group network may help them cope with their level of stress.

Since 1985, the Mansfield Youth Service Bureau has been offering a series of weekly group meetings for children who have sustained losses. Last school year over 100 children participated in COPE in all three elementary schools. Because COPE has been so popular, the staff of the Youth Service Bureau will be offering these groups again. The groups meet one day a week, at lunchtime, run 30 minutes in length and provide children the opportunity to verbalize about their specific situation and associated feelings. Grades K-2 and Grades 3-4 meet separately and age appropriate videos, feelings charts, activities and worksheets are utilized.

If you are interested in having your child participate or have any questions regarding COPE, please contact Pat Michalak, Program Coordinator Mansfield Youth Service Bureau @ 429-3319 or Email:

michalakp@mansfieldct.org

Exploring the Sea!



During the month of October, the enrichment room was home to a salt water aquarium where new animals were brought in each week. As the enrichment interns, we invited all Southeast Students to come visit the room each week with their class to learn about all of the different creatures. Over the course of the program, we hosted echinoderms (sea stars and urchins), crustaceans (crabs and shrimp), mollusks (periwinkles and oysters), and fish (puffer fish and flounder). In their visits to the enrichment room, students learned fun facts about these animals pertaining to their movement, protection, and feeding. The younger grades learned science skills including observation and categorization while the older grades focused on the concept of form and function with animals. Students had the opportunity to touch many of the animals and observe sea life artifacts, while also utilizing the Smartboard Technology in the enrichment room.

Throughout the month, we asked students to write their observations about what they were learning in individualized packets, and they were able to keep them after their last visit to share with everyone at home. We were as sad as our students to see the month end. We received tons of positive feedback from students and teachers, and the students showed an increased interest and fascination with the sea life they studied.

-Lara Wallmark & Kelly McCormick
Enrichment graduate interns from UConn

WHAT CAN YOU LEARN FROM A VAMPIRE?



The way a movie vampire covers his face with his cape is a good way to stop the spread of germs. It's called the Vampire Cough. Next time you cough or sneeze, cough into the inside bend of your elbow. If you cough into your hands, the germs from your mouth get spread around. Think about it - what was the last thing you touched with the inside of your elbow?



Blood Drive

Girl Scout Troop 5577 is sponsoring a blood drive to be held at Southeast School on Friday, December 28th from 10:30 to 3:00. Last year there were 43 appointments with 52 people signing in and we collected 46 units of blood, which was 115% of goal. We are hoping to meet, if not exceed that amount this year.

Please come join us; it is donors like you keep that keep our 31 hospitals' blood inventory up to par.

Ann Harford
American Red Cross

Congratulations to Betsy Parker, Diane Hutton

and team who were recognized by The Connecticut Association of Schools for their efforts in initiating the Mileage Club program for grades 1 through 4.

The Southeast Mileage Club provides a healthy option at recess that allows students to set and reach fitness goals. It creates an opportunity to promote life-long wellness and is extremely popular with our students. This cost-efficient program was adapted from Fitness Finders, Inc.



PTO Holiday Shopping Party

On Friday, Nov. 16th, the Southeast PTO held a Holiday Shopping Party at G&L Country & Christmas Barn and was able to raise \$201.00 for the school.

Those who attended were treated to an array of delicious gourmet marmalades, spreads, Snicker doodle coffee and hot mulled cider while they shopped.

The highlight of the evening was a cooking demonstration by "Chef Dave". You don't know what you are missing until you've tried his famous Shrimp Scampi. He also prepared an assortment of easy-to-make spreads, dips and a Dill Tomato & Mozzarella Salad.

A BIG thank you to all those that came out to support us. A special thank you to Dave, Lorrie and their friendly staff for providing us with such an enchanting evening. We are looking forward to planning this event again next year!

-Andrea Lennon, PTO

Children Have An Identity (CHAD)

The C.H.A.D. program promotes special child identification stickers that can be placed on the back of children's car seats. Should an emergency occur, these stickers can be used by hospital personnel to contact parent's or relatives.

You can make your own sticker and include the following information: Child's name, Birth date, Address, City, State, Mother and Father's names and phone numbers, Child's physician, and Emergency contact (other than parent), relationship and phone number.

For more information log on to:
www.tpahg.org/safety programs.

THE GIVING TREE



Our Giving Tree has been such a success these past years that we have decided to have another. We will be collecting new mittens, hats and scarves for local, needy families beginning December 3rd. Both adult and children sizes are needed. There will be a tree in the main office on which the children can place their donations of hats, scarves and mittens. Please leave the items unwrapped. Donations need to be at the school prior to December 13th, at which time they will be picked up for distribution to those families in need.

Monetary donations to Mansfield Youth Services will be accepted this year as well.

Thank you so much for your community support.



Healthy Cooking

Need ideas for healthy, good-tasting meals for your family? Visit the Meals Matter website to access a wide variety of recipes and information that will help you plan meals that your whole family will enjoy. www.mealsmatter.org - click on Recipes & Meal Ideas, then click on Quick Meals for easy & nutritious meals.

MANY THANKS

To our parents who volunteer to help during these busy school days. And, of course, thank you to our PTO officers this year—

Presidents.....Kim O'Keefe
Vice President....Kimberly Christenson
Secretary.....Monique Brown
Treasurer.....Lesley Sweeney

